

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 NIC-01 SAM-01 NSCE-00 IO-14 AF-10

DRC-01 /143 W

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R 270727Z SEP 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2467

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1681

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR RP CH

SUBJECT: MRS. MARCOS TRIP TO CHINA

REF: MANILA 11520; HONG KONG 10692

1. IN USLO VIEW, PRESIDENT MARCOS NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT IMELDA MARCOS' RELATIONSHIP WITH CHIANG CH'ING PREJUDICING PROSPECTS WITH CHOU EN-LAI. GIVEN THE HEAD OF STATE TREATMENT BEING ACCORDED MRS. MARCOS, CHIANG CH'ING ACTING AS HOST AND ESCORT IS NATURAL, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE INCREASINGLY PROMINENT ROLE SHE HAS BEEN PLAYING WITH OTHER FOREIGN VISITORS. FACT THAT CHOU MET WITH MRS. MARCOS WHEN HE HAD FAILED TO SEE SEVERAL AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE PLACES HIS PRESTIGE BEHIND MOVEMENT TOWARD NORMALIZATION, AND CHIANG CH'ING'S ROLE UNDERSCORES IMPORTANCE PRC ATTACHES TO THE SUBJECT.

2. WE HAVE BEEN INTRIGUED BY WHAT THESE TWO WOMEN -- SIMILAR IN MANY WAYS EXCEPT LOOKS--HAVE TALKED ABOUT DURING THEIR
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LONG PERIODS TOGETHER. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING ANYTHING

EMBASSY MANILA CAN PICK UP WHEN THE PARTY RETURNS.
INCIDENTALLY, WE ARE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY THE MORNING'S
VOA REPORT THAT MRS. MARCOS WILL RETURN TO MANILA
SEPTEMBER 29 INSTEAD OF STAYING FOR PRC NATIONAL DAY, IN
ORDER TO AVOID INCONVENIENCING HER HOSTS. IF ACCURATE,
REPORT COULD SUGGEST (AND WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM)
MRS. MARCOS' DISSATISFACTION WITH SOME ASPECT OF VISIT,
POSSIBLY HER FAILURE THUS FAR TO MEET THE CHAIRMAN. ANOTHER
POSSIBLE EXPLANATION, OF COURSE, IS THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS DECIDED
THAT HAVING HIS WIFE AS FEATURED GUEST FOR THE PRC'S 25TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WOULD CONVEY MORE RAPID MOVEMENT
TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS THAN HE WANTED AT THIS TIME.
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

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